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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 17. United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 35th and 39th meetings on 3 and 5 June, the Committee considered section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. Some delegations noted that although the environment was one of the five areas referred to in General Assembly resolution 45/255, the proposed growth rate was modest. Several delegations noted the significant growth anticipated under extrabudgetary resources and, while welcoming such increases, expressed concern about the proliferation of trust funds.

3. Some delegations felt that it would be more appropriate to include the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that were related to the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance under subprogramme 9, "Environmental assessment" and not under subprogramme 6, "Human Settlements and the environment" as proposed in the budget.

4. Some delegations questioned the fact that the programme narrative in part C did not allow for the provision of conference and interpretation services to the Permanent Representative Committee of UNEP whose official status has been required by the UNEP Executive Body in 1987. They recommended that it be included. Others expressed concern that such a decision might have substantial and unnecessary financial implications.

5. One delegation expressed concern that the activities under subprogramme 2 were too broad and general in nature. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the increase of travel expenditures for UNEP staff; these delegations also expressed concern about the relatively low percentage of total regular budget resources for the programme of work in comparison with expenditures on executive direction and management.

6. The proportion of high level posts was noted and further efforts to streamline these high level posts was suggested.

Reservation

7. One delegation expressed a reservation concerning the activities under part C, as long as it did not include conference and interpretation services for the Permanent Representatives Committee of UNEP.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee stressed the importance of international environmental cooperation and of UNEP activities in this area.

9. The Committee took note of the information provided by the UNEP representative that at its sixteenth session the Governing Council had decided that work on the establishment of a world environment academy should be suspended.

10. The Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the programme narrative of section 17 because the UNEP Governing Council had decided that the special session should be for three days instead of five, as it was proposed in the budget, and to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

11. The Committee reconfirmed all the recommendations contained in paragraphs 185 to 192 of the report of its thirtieth session.

12. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, on the understanding that all non-mandated activities would be excluded from the programme narrative.